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LETTER DATED 20 JUNE 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ARMENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward to you herewith the text, transmitted by facsimile, of a statement issued on 18 June 1994 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the statement as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alexander ARZOUMANIAN
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement issued on 18 June 1994 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia concerning the murder and kidnapping of Armenian border guards by Azerbaijan

At 5 a.m. on 18 June 1994, Azerbaijani armed units shelled the border areas of the Noyemberian region in the north-eastern part of the Republic of Armenia and then crossed the border into Armenia. Attacking a border post near the village of Barekamavan, the Azerbaijani army units murdered and mutilated the bodies of six border guards, injured one and kidnapped another.

The Government of Armenia views this unprovoked attack as a breach of the de facto cessation of military hostilities, reflecting the hardened Azerbaijani position and their unwillingness to negotiate seriously. Furthermore, it views the attack as a deliberate attempt to abort Mr. Jan Eliasson's mission, as the attack came at a time when the Chairman of the Minsk Group was in Armenia for negotiations.

The Government of Armenia expects an explanation and an official apology from the Azerbaijani Government, the immediate return of the hostage and compensation for the damages caused by the attack.

Unless the Azerbaijani Government meets those demands, the Government of the Republic of Armenia will seriously consider suspending all negotiations currently under way on the Nagorny Karabakh conflict and will hold Azerbaijan responsible for the consequences resulting from the breakup of the negotiations.

Valuing greatly the one-month-long de facto cessation of military hostilities around Nagorny Karabakh and hoping that this could become the basis for achieving a de jure cease-fire and the success of the negotiations on Nagorny Karabakh, Armenia will continue to exercise restraint and has ordered its military units not to react to the provocation. In the event of the repetition of any such incident, however, Armenia reserves the right to undertake appropriate operations in response.